

# News Release



For Immediate Release  
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## Gold Rush Era Shipwreck

# FROLIC PROJECT TO INVENTORY SHIPWRECK SITE AND ARTIFACTS

(Note to Editors: You can find background material on the Frolic and the 2003 Survey Project at [www.pointcabrillo.org](http://www.pointcabrillo.org). Underwater digital video and digital still photos from the 2003 dive are available from Bruce Lewis, (707) 964-3844, [bruce@prwebsite.com](mailto:bruce@prwebsite.com))

MENDOCINO – A team of maritime archeologists, hosted by Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association (PCLK), will return to the Mendocino coast July 26-August 5, to gain new insights about the Gold Rush era shipwreck Frolic. Dual objectives for 2004 include an inventory of the ship's remains, and completing the identification and cataloging of Frolic artifacts which began in 2003.

The Frolic was identified by Archeologist Thomas Layton Ph.D., of San Jose State University, in the early 1980's. Dr. Layton's extensive research and networking efforts brought together historians, museum curators, sport divers, and state administrators in a unified endeavor to preserve the unique history of the Frolic, one of the most important wrecks in California history.

With the goal of continuing Dr. Layton's pioneering work and creating a comprehensive catalogue of ship's artifact, PCLK and the visiting archeologists are inviting divers from across California to bring Frolic artifacts in their private collections to the Point Cabrillo Light Station for identification and inclusion in the catalog.

On July 31 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., Dr. Layton, now the author of two books on the Frolic and curator of the Frolic collection held by the Mendocino County Museum in Willits, and Conservator Judy Sylvester, Ph.D., of Indiana University, will work with individual divers to assess, photograph, and record Frolic artifacts held in private collections. Participating divers will receive a copy of the record created for each item cataloged by the team, and a certificate of participation.

Shelli Smith, Ph. D., of Napa Community College and Charles Beeker, Ph.D., Indiana University, who led the underwater team in 2003, will once again lead the survey project. "The goal for this year's underwater survey is to establish a base line inventory of the ship's remains and the marine life on the site, and to recover samples of the ship's hull for analysis," said Smith.

"Taking an inventory to know exactly what exists at the site today, including surrounding plants and animal life, will benchmark the site and allow for future monitoring and conservation," said Smith, whose team will post daily progress journals at [www.pointcabrillo.org](http://www.pointcabrillo.org). Beeker will coordinate the eight-member dive team, which includes marine archaeology students from universities and colleges across the country who are volunteering their time to the project.

At 8 p.m. August 5, the Frolic Project Team will give a public presentation at Preston Hall in Mendocino to report their findings and review the information that has been gathered over the past two years. The Mendocino Presbyterian Church has donated their facility for this event. PCLK will also offer guided walks to the site at 11 a.m. and at 1 p.m. July 30th through August 5. Guided walks will begin at the Lighthouse.

There are many exciting volunteer opportunities associated with this project. If you are interested in volunteering, please call PCLK Volunteer Coordinator, Annette Jarvie at (707) 937-0816. Volunteers are invited to join the Project Team at meals and evening briefings. PCLK is also seeking sponsors for members of the team, and contributors for other project costs. Please call Lisa Weg, Program Manager, at the number above, if you can be of assistance.

The 300-acre Point Cabrillo Light Station & Nature Preserve is a part of the California State Park system. It is located on Point Cabrillo Drive, just off Highway 1, between Fort Bragg and Mendocino. The Lighthouse and Gift Shop are open daily from 11-4, and the Preserve is open until a half hour after sunset. The lighthouse is a half-mile walk from the parking area.

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